

Message Text

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R 131805Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 00732

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, RO, GW
SUBJECT: SCHMIDT VISIT TO ROMANIA

REFS: (A) BONN 063; (B) BONN 0302; (C) BONN 21295

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST WAS SUCCESSFUL IN
REINVIGORATING--AT LEAST TEMPORARILY--FRG/ROMANIAN
RELATIONS. THE GERMANS ARE PARTICULARLY SATISFIED
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THAT THEY HAVE OBTAINED A ROMANIAN COMMITMENT, ALBEIT
VERBAL, TO MAINTAIN THE 1977 LEVEL OF EMIGRATION, I.E.
AT LEAST 10,000. ROMANIAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE
THE GERMANS ON EMIGRATION WAS THE QUID PRO QUO FOR AN
INCREASE OF 700 MILLION DM
IN THE CEILING ON EXPORT INSURANCE GUARANTEES
TO BUCHAREST. THE GERMANS DETECTED NO SIGNS OF OVERT

OPPOSITION TO CEAUSESCU AND HAVE DISCARDED THEIR EARLIER VIEW (REF A) THAT HE WAS ADOPTING A FOREIGN POLICY LESS INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY INDUSTRIAL AND UNION LEADERS AS WELL AS FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL AND ECONOMIC MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY GRUENER ON HIS 26-HOUR VISIT TO BUCHAREST ON JANUARY 6 AND 7. THE CHANCELLOR AND CEAUSESCU SPENT SOME SIX HOURS TOGETHER IN TETE-A-TETES WHILE THE DELEGATIONS MET FOR PARALLEL TALKS. OUR SOURCES DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS POSITIVE AND STATED THAT FRG EXPECTATIONS WERE GENERALLY MET IN WHAT THEY REGARD AS A PRODUCTIVE VISIT FOR GERMAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.

2. HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: THE CHANCELLOR'S PRINCIPAL BILATERAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO INCREASE, OR AT LEAST MAINTAIN, THE 1977 LEVEL OF EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS (BETWEEN 10 AND 11,000.) THE ROMANIANS AGREED TO PERMIT EMIGRATION TO CONTINUE AT THE 1977 LEVEL IN THE COMING YEARS. THIS COMMITMENT IS NOT, HOWEVER, DOCUMENTED BY A TREATY BUT IS VAUGELY REFERRED TO IN THE COMMON DECLARATION SIGNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT. THE DECLARATION STATES THAT "FAMILY REUNIFICATION...WILL BE CONSIDERED FURTHER IN GOODWILL
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AND ON THE BASIS OF THE INTENTIONS REAFFIRMED IN BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS." FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE ROMANIANS WILL MAINTAIN THIS COMMITMENT SO LONG AS RELATIONS CONTINUE ON AN EVEN KEEL. THEY FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BUCHAREST WILL USE THE EMIGRATION QUESTION AS A PRESSURE TACTIC SHOULD RELATIONS SOUR. THE FRG ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE SOME 340,000 ETHNIC GERMANS IN ROMANIA AND THEY BELIEVE THAT MOST WOULD LIKE TO EMIGRATE TO THE FRG.

THE GERMANS WERE LESS SUCCESSFUL IN THE AREA OF MARRIAGE APPROVALS. SCHMIDT WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE ROMANIANS WOULD AGREE TO EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL PROCEDURE IN CASES OF GERMAN CITIZENS WISHING TO MARRY ROMANIANS. THE FRG AND ROMANIA HAVE LONG HAD AN UNOFFICIAL AGREEMENT THAT ENGAGED COUPLES WOULD HAVE TO WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE RECEIVING PERMISSION TO MARRY FROM ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. THE ROMANIANS HAVE, HOWEVER, IN SOME 4-500 CASES WITHHELD PERMISSION TO THE ROMANIAN PARTNER FOR FROM TWO TO FOUR YEARS. ALTHOUGH THE DECLARATION STATES THAT MARRIAGE APPROVALS, LIKE FAMILY REUNIFICATION, ARE TO BE TREATED "WITH GOODWILL", OUR SOURCES REPORTED THAT

LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THIS AREA. THEY FORESEE IT AS A CONTINUING IRRITANT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND BUCHAREST.

3. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: THE GERMANS ALSO PRESSED THE ROMANIANS TO EASE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR CITIZENS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO THE FRG. THE FOREIGN OFFICE

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POINTED OUT THAT ROMANIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN EASTERN EUROPE WHERE THE NUMBER OF CITIZENS VISITING THE FRG HAS DECREASED IN RECENT YEARS. (WE ARE TOLD THIS HAS BEEN HALVED.) THE ROMANIANS AGREED TO EASE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND THE DECLARATION STATES THAT BOTH

COUNTRIES "REASSERT THEIR INTENT TO CONTINUE
FACILITATING CONTACTS AND TRIPS BY CITIZENS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES."
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4. ECONOMIC: THE ROMANIANS HAVE LONG FELT THAT THEY
WERE NOT PROPERLY REWARDED FOR HAVING BEEN THE FIRST
EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE THE FRG. THEY
HAVE FOR SOME TIME PRESSED BONN FOR LARGE-SCALE
(ON THE ORDER OF L BILLION DM), UNTIED CREDITS IN THE
FORM OF DEVELOPMENT AID. THE FRG HAS REJECTED THE
CONTENTION THAT ROMANIA IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND
HAS REFUSED REQUESTS FOR THIS AID. THE CHANCELLOR
AGREED, HOWEVER, TO INCREASE BY 700 MILLION DM
THE AMOUNT OF EXPORT GUARANTEES THAT WILL
BE INSURED THROUGH HERMES TO ROMANIAN STATE ORGANS.(SEPTTEL)

FRG OFFICIALS
HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING IN DESCRIBING THE EXPANSION OF
EXPORT GUARANTEES AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR MAINTENANCE
OF HIGH EMIGRATION LEVELS.

THIS ACTION IS EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE
TRADE LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (THE
FRG IS ALREADY ROMANIA'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING
PARTNER). SIMILARLY, IT WILL FURTHER INCREASE THE FRG
SURPLUS WHICH IS ALREADY A CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR
BUCHAREST.

5. VFW-614: THE ROMANIANS PRESSED PARTICULARLY HARD
ON THIS ISSUE ASKING THAT THE FRG TAKE STEPS TO
MAINTAIN THE JOINT GERMAN-ROMANIAN PRODUCTION PROGRAM.
THE GERMANS EXPLAINED THE CABINET DECISION OF DECEMBER
21 (REFTTEL C) AND SAID ONLY THAT THEY WERE PREPARED
TO REVIEW CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM "IF APPROPRIATE
MARKETING PROSPECTS WERE AT HAND". FOREIGN OFFICE
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OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THOSE WORKING ON THE PROJECT
HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT SUCH MARKETING PROSPECTS ARE
IN SIGHT.

6. CONSULATES: THE GERMANS AND ROMANIANS DISCUSSED
EXPANSION OF CONSULTATES; THE FRG WISHES TO OPEN AN

OFFICE IN AREAS OF HEAVY ETHNIC GERMAN SETTLEMENT (PERHAPS SIBIU), WHILE THE ROMANIANS WOULD OPEN AN OFFICE IN MUNICH. GERMAN OFFICIALS TELL US THE ROMANIANS ARE OFFERING AN INADEQUATE AREA OF JURISDICTION FOR THE PROPOSED FRG CONSULAR DISTRICT OUT OF CONCERN THAT THE PRECEDENT WILL RESULT IN HUNGARIAN PRESSURE FOR INCREASED CONSULAR ACCESS TO ITS ETHNIC NATIONALS IN ROMANIA. NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE ON THIS QUESTION.

7. READING ROOMS: THE RECIPROCAL OPENING OF READING ROOMS IN MUNICH AND BUCHAREST IS MOVING FORWARD AND OUR SOURCES EXPECT THE REMAINING PROBLEMS, WHICH THEY DESCRIBE AS PURELY TECHNICAL, TO BE OVERCOME SHORTLY. THE "COMMON DECLARATION" STATES THAT BOTH SIDES INTEND TO OPEN THEIR RESPECTIVE FACILITIES DURING 1978.

8. INTERNATIONAL: PRIOR TO THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT, A FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED TO US HIS VIEW THAT ROMANIAN POLICY WAS BECOMING LESS INDEPENDENT OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. THIS SAME OFFICIAL HAS NOW DISCARDED THIS VIEW AND FEELS THAT CEAUSESCU IS PURSUING HIS RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT POLICIES WITH UNDIMINISHED INTENSITY.

9. THE MIDDLE EAST: IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHMIDT, CEAUSESCU PLAYED DOWN HIS REPORTED ROLE AS A MIDDLE MAN IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE INITIATIVE. THE ROMANIANS ALSO PRESSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMMON DECLARATION OF SEVERAL POSITIONS WHICH THE GERMANS VIEWED AS TOO PRO-ARAB, E.G. SUPPORT FOR AN IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. THE ROMANIANS ALSO REFUSED TO INCLUDE IN THE DECLARATION A SPECIFIC REFERENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE CURRENT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE INITIATIVE. GERMAN OFFICIALS INTERPRET THE ROMANIAN STANCE AS AN EFFORT TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES SOMEWHAT FROM THE SADAT INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILE

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REACTION IT HAS
CAUSED IN SOME PARTS OF THE ARAB WORLD. THE GERMANS
STILL REGARD THE ROMANIANS AS PURSUING A RELATIVELY
BALANCED POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

10. DOMESTIC: THE GERMANS DETECTED NO INDICATIONS
OF WEAKNESS IN CEAUSESCU'S DOMESTIC POSITION NOR
DID THEY SEE ANY SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL
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OPPOSITION. WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS HERE REGARD THE
JU VALLEY STRIKES AS ISOLATED INCIDENTS RATHER THAN A
TREND. THEY STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS ONLY A
HYPOTHESIS.

11. BERLIN: WHILE NOT STRESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE DECLARATION'S REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT TO THE SAME EXTENT AS DID
THE FRG DCM IN BUCHAREST, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WERE

PLEASED WITH THE TREATMENT OF BERLIN IN THE DOCUMENT.
A SENIOR OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE CHANCELLOR WAS
ABLE TO OVERCOME INITIAL ROMANIAN RESISTANCE TO ANY
DECLARATION REFERENCE TO BERLIN.

12. THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF
BUCHAREST 0223.

13. COMMENT: WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE THE
VISIT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN GIVING NEW MOMENTUM
TO RELATIONS WHICH HAVE STAGNATED IN RECENT YEARS.
THEY SEEM FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT A MORE POSITIVE TREND
CAN NOW BE EXPECTED. THEY NOTED AT THE SAME TIME,
HOWEVER, THAT GERMAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS STILL HAVE A
LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH THE FAVORABLE CLIMATE
ATTAINED IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE RESTORATION OF
TIES IN 1967. AS A RESULT OF THAT ERA, FRG AND
ROMANIAN RELATIONS ARE MORE BROADLY BASED AND INTENSIVE
THAN THOSE BETWEEN BONN AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHMIDT VISIT TO ROMANIA
TAGS: PGOV, RO, GE
To: STATE
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